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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/776,026	02/10/2004	Christopher Dillon	07700/045001	9067

7590

07/29/2005

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Rosenthal and Osha L L P
1221 McKinney Suite 2800
Houston, TX 77010

EXAMINER

NASRI, JAVAID H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2839

DATE MAILED: 07/29/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

H/A

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/776,026	Applicant(s) DILLON, CHRISTOPHER	
	Examiner Javaid Nasri	Art Unit 2839	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 May 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10 February 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. The indicated allowability of claims is withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference(s). Rejections based on the newly cited reference(s) follow.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ohta (5,190,467). Ohta discloses, **for claim 1**, a first connector element supporting first connector terminals, a second connector element supporting second connector terminals configured to electrically connect to the first connector terminals, wherein the second connector element is configured to be inserted in and mated with the first connector element, and a latch element (1) having a cantilevered flexible portion supported at one end portion and projected to be freely deflectable at a second end portion wherein when the latch element is inserted in an opening (5) formed in the first connector element, the second end portion of the cantilevered flexible portion is mated with and latchingly engaged with the first connector element, and wherein when the second connector element is inserted in and mated with the first connector element by latchingly engaging with the latch element, the cantilevered flexible portion contacts the second connector

element and is deflected to force the second end portion of the cantilevered flexible portion to move in a direction orthogonal (see figure 2) to an insertion/mating direction of the second connector element, so as to release the engagement of the latch element with the first connector element, thereby rendering the latch element movable in an insertion direction thereof, **for claim 2**, when the latch element is inserted in the opening, a first recessed portion (4b) formed in the first connector element and a first projected portion (1b) provided at the second end portion of cantilevered flexible portion are mated with each other to bring the latch element into latching engagement with the first connector element, and wherein when the second connector element is inserted in and mated with the first connector element, the first projected portion is moved in a direction orthogonal (see figure 2) to the insertion/mating direction to allow release of retention of the first projected portion from the first recessed portion, **for claim 3**, when the second connector element is inserted in and mated with the first connector element, a lug portion (1b) projecting from the second connector element is engaged with the first recessed portion (4b) to put the first and second connector elements into mating engagement with each other and the first projected portion retained in the first recessed portion is pushed up in the direction orthogonal (see figure 2) to the insertion/mating direction of the second connector element by the lug to allow release of the retention of the first projected portion from the first recessed portion, **for claim 4**, the opening (R) of the first connector element is formed by an aperture between an outer wall formed at an outside of the first connector element and an inner wall formed at an inside of the-same first connector element, and the first recessed portion is formed as a through hole in the inner wall, **for claim 5**, the latch element has a second projected portion (1c) that abuts with the inner wall when the first recessed portion and the lug portion are engaged with

each other to restrain the latch element from moving in a direction in which the engagement between the first recessed portion and the lug portion is released, **for claim 6**, plurality of second projected portions (see figure 1), **for claim 7**, the latch element can be retained in and latchingly engaged with the first connector element at a first position and a second position which are displaced relative to one another in the insertion direction of the latch element, **for claim 8**, the latch element can be retained in and latchingly engaged with the first connector element at a first position and a second position is placed relative to one another in the insertion direction of the latch element, and wherein the first projected portion is retained in the first recessed portion at the first position and the first projected portion is retained in and latchingly engaged with a second recessed portion (4c) formed in the first connector element at the second position when released from retention in the first recessed portion, **for claim 9**, a front end portion at the other-second end portion of the cantilevered flexible portion is bent in the direction orthogonal to the insertion/mating direction.

4. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Winger (4,433,888). Winger discloses, **for claim 1**, a first connector element supporting first connector terminals, a second connector element supporting second connector terminals configured to electrically connect to the first connector terminals, wherein the second connector element is configured to be inserted in and mated with the first connector element, and a latch element (52) having a cantilevered flexible portion supported at one end portion and projected to be freely deflectable at a second end portion wherein when the latch element is inserted in an opening (36) formed in the first connector element, the second end portion of the cantilevered flexible portion is mated

with and latchingly engaged with the first connector element, and wherein when the second connector element is inserted in and mated with the first connector element by latchingly engaging with the latch element, the cantilevered flexible portion contacts the second connector element and is deflected to force the second end portion of the cantilevered flexible portion to move in a direction orthogonal to an insertion/mating direction of the second connector element, so as to release the engagement of the latch element with the first connector element, thereby rendering the latch element movable in an insertion direction thereof,

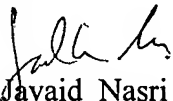
5. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Coldren (4,657,331). Coldren discloses, **for claim 1**, a first connector element supporting first connector terminals, a second connector element supporting second connector terminals configured to electrically connect to the first connector terminals, wherein the second connector element is configured to be inserted in and mated with the first connector element, and a latch element (52) having a cantilevered flexible portion supported at one end portion and projected to be freely deflectable at a second end portion wherein when the latch element is inserted in an opening (under 26' and 27') formed in the first connector element, the second end portion of the cantilevered flexible portion is mated with and latchingly engaged with the first connector element, and wherein when the second connector element is inserted in and mated with the first connector element by latchingly engaging with the latch element, the cantilevered flexible portion contacts the second connector element and is deflected to force the second end portion of the cantilevered flexible portion to move in a direction orthogonal to an insertion/mating direction of the second connector element, so as to release the engagement of the latch element with the first connector element, thereby rendering the latch element movable in an insertion direction thereof,

Contact

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Javaid Nasri whose telephone number is 571 272 2095. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tulsidas C. Patel can be reached on 571 272 2800 ext 39. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Javaid Nasri
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2839

Jn
Jhn
July 27, 2005